REMARKS

The specification has been amended to make an editorial change therein.

The indication that claims 3-6 and 9-10 include patentable subject matter is acknowledged with thanks.

Claims 1-2, 7-8 and 11-13 were rejected as anticipated by LAMB et al. 6,747,970. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

These claims are directed to embodiments of the invention in which call control data are installed in call agents that are clients of a server in a packet-based network, where the server stores master call control data required in respective ones of the call agents, and where each of the call agents stores a copy of corresponding master call control data so that the call agents perform network-wide call control. As explained in the background and summary of the present application these embodiments improve maintenance efficiency of call control data stored in the call agents.

LAMB et al. describe a system that includes a user agent 301 in a telecom hosting server 203 that operates under the control of a user through a user agent interface 250 in the user's computer 245 to control a telecommunications connection (column 27, lines 33-40, column 28, lines 51-54). The Official Action takes the position that the user agent 301 corresponds to the claimed server and user agent interface 250 corresponds to

the claimed call agent. Indeed, LAMB et al. disclose at column 29, lines 40-46 that the interface 250 acts as a client to communicate with a respective user agent 301.

However, LAMB et al. do not disclose that the server (user agent 301) stores master call control data required in respective ones of the call agents, where each of the call agents (interface 250) stores a copy of corresponding master call control data so that the call agents perform network-wide call control.

LAMB et al. disclose at column 29, lines 14-19 that the interface 250 may include an applet that interacts with the user agent 301. This applet is not a copy of corresponding master call control data (that is also stored in the server) so that the call agents perform network-wide call control. Further, the discussion beginning at column 59, line 3 (see also column 63, line 59 through column 64, line 9) describes the interface 250 in detail. There is no mention here of a copy of the corresponding master call control data. Indeed, it appears that the interface 250 is merely a series of displays for the user's computer that allows the user to make a telephone call using the user agent 301, and as such would not need to include any more than the programming necessary to cause the user agent to make the telephone call, such as the items shown in Figure 12 (that is, the user agent performs network-wide call control, not the interface).

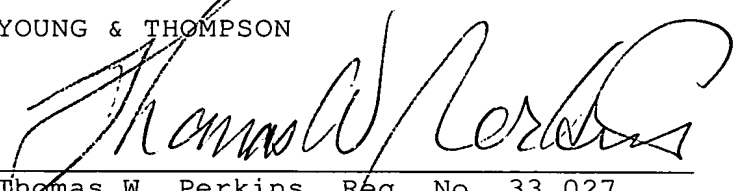Accordingly, these claims avoid the rejection under §102.

Claims 2 and 8 have been amended to more clearly indicate that the call agent updates the copy of the corresponding master call control data stored therein. LAMB et al. do not disclose that the interface updates this data. LAMB et al. update data relevant to a particular telephone call, but not the corresponding master call control data stored therein. Accordingly, these claims further avoid the rejection under §102.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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